Conversion of roads into NHs in Assam

299. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of State roads in the State of Assam converted to National Highways during last four years;

(b) the specific State roads in the State converted into National Highways during the current financial year and proposed to be converted during the next two financial years; and

(c) the amount that has been earmarked for conversion of State roads into NHs in the State of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) No new National Highway has been declared in Assam during the last four years. At present, emphasis is being given for development of roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways. No separate funds are earmarked for declaration of new National Highways.

Four-Laning works on NH-31

300. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of work completed for four-laning of Highway on NH-31 so far;

(b) the details of work pending and the reasons therefor;

(c) by when this project is likely to be completed;

(d) the reasons for not maintaining the road from Pathsala town to Bijni which is in quite dilapidated condition for more than a year and which was supposed to be maintained by NHAI; and

(e) by when can we expect a permanent arrangement in place of the Brailey Bridge between Howli and Bhawanipur, which has been there for a long time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) The four-laning work of NH-31, which is part of East-West Corridor is in progress at various stages. The original alignment of East-West Corridor from km 565 to 634 of NH-31 had to be changed, as it was passing through Wild Life Sanctuaries, thereby adversely affecting the progress of the work, mainly due to delay in land acquisition, relocation of utilities, cutting of trees, forest clearance, ban on hill cutting and poor law & order situation in the State of Assam. Target is now to complete the 4-laning of NH-31, which is part of East-West Corridor, substantially by December 2009, except the stretches under modified alignment, which are expected to be completed by year 2012.

(d) NH-31 was badly damaged from Pathsala to Bijni due to overtopping caused by flash floods resulting in collapse of a RCC Bridge and road breaches at 8 locations. A Baliey Bridge was launched at the location of the collapsed bridge and a diversion was also constructed to maintain traffic. The breaches have already been plugged by providing